Policy Statement

State of Iowa

Policy Release Number: **2020 – 05A**

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Policy Statement requiring frequency coordination by vendors or agencies deploying mobile LTE broadband vehicles.

WHEREAS: The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB) is established in Code of Iowa sections 80.28 and 80.29. ISICSB is charged to develop, implement and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the state and local levels, and to coordinate similar efforts at the federal level, with the objective of overseeing operation of statewide integrated public safety systems, and establish, monitor, and maintain appropriate polices and protocols, expand, maintain and fund stakeholder education, public education, and official education programs to demonstrate value of short-term communications interoperability solutions, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB investigates data and video interoperability systems and applicable standards that support public safety and service such as FirstNet and other carriers, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB is tasked with establishing, monitoring and maintaining policies and protocols that ensure interoperable communications function properly by following applicable best practices and standards related to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) and to some extent, other interoperable systems operating within Iowa, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB supports the expansion of regional efforts to promote implementation of the ISICS, FirstNet and other carriers for planned and unplanned events, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB recognizes and understands that uncoordinated use of frequencies, absent continual coordination among system owners, can cause detrimental interference, desensitization of land mobile radio (LMR) subscriber units and other unintended and undesirable effects, and;

WHEREAS: ISICSB is aware of situations where local long term evolution (LTE) devices may desensitize susceptible mobile and portable LMR subscriber unit receivers. Additionally, ISICSB recognizes that there are currently mobile and portable LMR subscriber radios capable of transmitting and receiving broadband frequencies, and the expansion of these device offerings is likely. While there have been mobile LTE deployments in many other states that did not cause unintended or undesirable effects, due to limited deployments of mobile LTE units in Iowa there may be unknown or other unintended and undesirable effects, and; Now therefore;

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IT IS ISICSB POLICY: **That any communication system provider that is deploying or plans to deploy a mobile long term evolution (LTE) broadband vehicle in the State of Iowa shall contact the ISICS Network Operations Center and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) or other designee. The SWIC or other designee shall then coordinate with the local LMR system owner/operators in the area where such deployable will be stationed. If it is an emergent, short notice event, the LTE communication system provider should also inform the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) State Duty Officer. If no interference mitigation plan has been previously developed to include coordinating dialog with the State, the LTE vehicle operator/provider should not transmit until they can ensure reasonable precautions have been taken to minimize potential for local interference. It is recommended that a state-credentialed COML and/or COMT be deployed or put on stand-by status with the vehicle with any deployment. If past experience in Iowa has demonstrated that certain carrier specific deployments have a higher probability of producing interference, certain mobile LTE deployments shall disable any LTE equipment potentially causing, as well as any other equipment, which has been found in Iowa to introduce interference in public safety LMR and LTE systems and/or network operating frequencies. If there is reasonable expectation that the deployed LTE equipment will not cause interference, or once previously encountered interference has been mitigated, the LTE equipment may be activated.**